# CALIFORNIA TRAVEL AND TOURISM COMMISSION'S

## **MEDIA RECEPTION**

**JUNE 13, 2006** 

WOLFGANG PUCK RESTAURANT
Pacific Design Center
West Hollywood

### 20 CALIFORNIA STORY IDEAS

- 1. California Travel and Tourism Commission Facts and Stats.
  - Travel and tourism expenditures in 2005 amounted to an estimated \$88.1 billion, provided employment for nearly 911,800 Californians, and generated \$5.3 billion in state and local tax revenues.
  - Tourism is California's 4th largest employer.
  - California was the destination for 314 million domestic travelers and approximately 8.9 million international travelers, leisure and business, in 2004, the most recent year available.
  - California's share of the domestic travel market in 2004 was 10.8%, making it the most visited state in America.

Source: D.K. Shifflet & Associates, Ltd., CIC Research, Inc. and California Tourism, 2005

- 2. **This is Winter in California.** Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, the California Travel and Tourism Commission and California's world-class ski destinations teamed up for the first time to launch the 2005-06 California Snow Campaign aimed at increasing destination skier visits and making California top-of-mind as a premier ski destination. The campaign includes a 30-second spot including the Governor and professional skiers and snowboarders, domestic and international media relations and advertising, internet and E-mail programs, a new Web site <a href="https://www.visitcaliforniasnow.com">www.visitcaliforniasnow.com</a>, including the interactive game "Race the Gov" and more. The campaign is planned to continue in the 2006-07 fiscal year building on the momentum gained in 2005-06.
- 3. California with a Silver Spoon. First-class travelers can find a variety of luxurious accommodations and activities in California. Those with expensive taste can enjoy upscale spas, fine hotels, world-class cuisine and more.
- 4. **California's Mature Travelers.** Seniors enjoy California sights and activities, whether traveling alone, with the family or grandkids. California abounds with museums, theme parks, cultural and food festivals, shopping and adventures in the great outdoors, including fishing, cave exploration, bird watching or hiking.
- 5. California Architecture. California's architecture is an eclectic mix reflecting California's diverse history and culture—American bungalow-style architecture designed by Greene & Green, art deco, elegant Victorians, Spanish Mission-style, Frank Lloyd Wright, neon, Old West town facades, a donut shop in the shape of a giant donut, and a pyramid in downtown San Francisco.
- 6. Wild & Wacky Recreational Races. The Californian eclectic lifestyle is reflected in races including the Kinetic Sculpture Race on the North Coast, camel and ostrich races at the Riverside County Fair and National Date Festival, the Temecula Valley Rubber Duck Derby and runners in the Courtland Pear Run race five miles through orchards and vineyards of the Delta.
- 7. **Professional Sports**. California is home to some of the country's leading sporting teams and this year will host the first annual Amgen Tour of California, scheduled for February 19-26, 2006 and showcasing 700 miles of California scenery. San Diego, Anaheim, Los Angeles, San Jose, San Francisco, Oakland, and Sacramento all have professional teams playing sports such as football, major league baseball, basketball, hockey, soccer and team tennis.

- 8. **California H2O.** California's many waterways including the ocean, lakes, rivers and creeks attract travelers wishing to enjoy the view, fish, take a dip, partake in water sports or just explore nature.
- 9. **The Mission Trail**. Beginning in the late 1700's, 21 Spanish missions were built by Franciscan padres under the direction of Father Junipero Serra, stretching north from San Diego to Sonoma.
- 10. **California Environment**. Experience and appreciate nature and California's unique environment at California state and national parks, wilderness areas and forests.
- 11. **California On Film**. According to the California Film Commission, over 80 percent of all film production takes place in California. Recognizable buildings and locations that have been captured in the movies and on TV include Ventura in "The Aviator" with Leonardo DiCaprio, a 2,000-pound walrus at Six Flags Marine World in Vallejo played Jocko, best buddy to (veterinarian) Adam Sandler who was courting Drew Barrymore in "Fifty First Dates" and "Meet the Fockers" (2004) was filmed at the Ontario International Airport.
- 12. **California Gardens**. In addition to its natural beauty, California is home to a number of beautifully landscaped grounds, botanical gardens, arboretums, greenhouse gardens, and zoological gardens such as the 134,000-square foot Central Garden at the J. Paul Getty Museum in Malibu, the McConnell Arboretum and Gardens recently opened in Redding and Berkeley's Botanical Gardens containing 12,000 different plants from around the world.
- 13. **California Critters**. Enjoying California wildlife can be a fun and educational experience whether watching gray whales from the coast or by boat, checking out sea lions at San Francisco's Pier 39, bird watching to find rarities such as the peregrine falcon and bald eagle, and exploring the many California wildlife preserves.
- 14. **Ethnic Events**. California is rich in cultural heritage and boasts a number of ethnic events including, Chinese New Year, Portuguese Festa, Greek Food Festival, Native American Pow Wow; Cherry Blossom Festival, Scottish Highland Games and Gathering of the Clan, Cinco De Mayo and Black Cowboy Parade.
- 15. **California Cruising**. Getting from point A to point B in California can be a vacation on its own, including Highway 1 along the Central Coast, Highway 395 in the eastern Sierra, historic Route 66, the Feather River Highway, and the state's newest scenic byway—Trinity Scenic Byway, State Highway 299 between Redding and Arcata. The *California Drives* guide available for free at <a href="https://www.bestofcaliforniadrives.com">www.bestofcaliforniadrives.com</a>, offers maps and a variety of route recommendations.
- 16. **Wild West**. California still has some of that Old West flavor intact and offers guest ranches, cattle drives, rodeos, horseback riding, wagon trains and historical towns for visitors to enjoy.
- 17. **Home Grown**. California agritourism is on the rise and unique festivals and working farms and ranches are attracting visitors from all over the country. Tourists can participate in farm stays, harvest their own fruits and vegetables, attend food-related festivals and shop farmer's markets.
- 18. **Take a Walk**. Get out those walking shoes for walking tours of San Francisco's Chinatown, Hollywood, historical city tours, literary and celebrity walking tours, ranger and docent led tours of state and national parks.

- 19. The Hollywood Mystique. Go where the stars go, tour celebrity homes, watch the taping of your favorite TV show, tour a movie studio, watch a movie being shot on location, and put your hands in the handprints of your favorite stars on Hollywood Boulevard.
- 20. Ghost Towns & Haunted Houses. Get spooked at Bodie State Historic Park, haunted restaurants, inns and hotels, including the Queen Mary in Long Beach.
- 21. Lighthouses. Scattered along California's coast are 12 lighthouses, beacons of the state's storied maritime heritage. Most of the lighthouses are open to the public, one is a bed and breakfast inn, two are youth hostels, and yes, some are even haunted.
- 22. U.S. Presidents. Amongst California attractions include the historical and stately Richard Nixon Library & Birthplace, Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Center for Public Affairs, Presidential Yacht Potomac, and hotels and restaurants that were presidential favorites.
- 23. Literary California. Visit the homes of such literary celebrities as Mark Twain, John Steinbeck, Jack London, Eugene O'Neal, Robert Luis Stevenson, William Saroyan, Will Rogers, and Robinson Jeffers, among others.
- 24. **Islands**. Located on the coast and home to many great lakes, visitors to California can visit one of its many islands, including Catalina Island, Channel Islands National Park, Alcatraz Island and Angel Island in the San Francisco Bay, The Farallones, and Fannette Island in Lake Tahoe.
- 25. **Motorcycle Touring**. California is a great state to view with the wind blowing in your hair visitors can rent motorcycles or ride their own throughout the state.

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## ANAHEIM/ORANGE COUNTY VISITOR & CONVENTION BUREAU

### OC's Burgeoning Arts Scene Continues to Expand

Orange County presents a vivacious arts scene, full of fascinating festivals, museums and performing arts. The Orange County Performing Arts Center takes center stage in 2006 with a six-week extravaganza celebrating a grand expansion, including a new concert hall, an intimate theater and an outdoor sculpture garden. Beyond the grandeur of the county's premier venues, new arts centers are developing throughout the area, from artists' villages to underground performance platforms. Let Orange County's arts draw you in.

### Ocean's Eleven - Orange County's Luxury Resorts

Orange County is known for its renowned beaches set along 42 miles of breathtaking coastline, featuring a collection of eleven lavish, oceanfront resorts. Travelers experience a spectacular beach getaway that includes plush accommodations, fine dining, rejuvenating spas, championship golf courses and spectacular coastal views, all within reach of the county's popular inland attractions. These acclaimed "Jewels of the Coast" are creating a buzz about Orange County as the premier luxury resort destination nestled in the heart of Southern California.

### Girlfriends Get a Taste of the OC

Orange County is an ideal weekend escape for girlfriends in search of style, sass and playful fun. On Friday night, savor the flavors of great cuisine paired with intriguing ambience at one of OC's trendy dining hotspots. Sip martinis and dance the night away at a sexy ultra lounge. Spend Saturday cruising the scenic Pacific Coast Highway with the top down in a sleek convertible. From artsy to laid-back, find a beach town personality just for you and treat your senses at one of OC's relaxing coastal spas offering a diverse menu of services and signature treatments unique to the area, including the California Dream'n Facial or yoga on the beach. Before heading home on Sunday, shop Orange County's unparalleled collection of nearly 1,000 retailers. Explore the Ultimate Shopping Resort<sup>TM</sup>, unique downtown boutiques, an "anti-mall" or a beautiful open-air shopping promenade.

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### AUTRY NATIONAL CENTER

### **Sizzling Summer Nights in August**

The hottest Thursdays in town return to the Autry National Center for the sixth summer in a row! Start your weekends early every Thursday evening in August in Griffith Park. Bring your friends for music and dancing, plus a visit to the museum, all for \$5 per person. Food and beverages are available for purchase. When and where: 6-9 pm, Griffith Park. Program: Aug 3<sup>rd</sup> – Eddie Ortiz with Orquestra Son Mayor; Aug 10<sup>th</sup> – James Intveld and the Swing Sinners; Aug 17<sup>th</sup> - Susie Hansen's Latin Band; Aug 24<sup>th</sup> – Johnny Polanco y Su Conjunto Amistad; Aug 31<sup>st</sup> – Big Town Seven.

### **Exhibitions in the Autry National Center**

Yosemite: Art of an American Icon – PART I – 1855 to 1969, September 22, 2006 through January 21, 2007

Yosemite: Art of an American Icon – PART II – 1970 to Present November 10, 2006 through April 22, 2007

Explore Yosemite through the eyes of its artists, experience its changing image, and learn about its impact as a cultural phenomenon. Yosemite is often credited as the birthplace of the "national park" idea. From landscape greats and contemporary photographers to Native weavers, Yosemite's transition from remote haven to national destination is the focus of this two part exhibition, which will consist of more than 140 artworks and 9,000 square fee of exhibition space.

Masters of the American West – Fine Art Show and Sale February 3, 2007 through March 4, 2007

Pistols: Dazzling Firearms from the Autry National Center May 18, 2007 through August 12, 2007 – Showcase Galley

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### CARLSBAD CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU

### Carlsbad Village

A trip to Carlsbad just wouldn't be complete without a day in the Village. The downtown area is a charming concentration of shops, restaurants and tree-shaded streets with a quaint European air. The Village will surprise and enchant you, whether you're simply browsing or actually buying in the art galleries, the flower sellers, the jewelers or trendy boutiques. Sidewalk cafes and other sophisticated dining options contribute to the continental feel of the Village.

### **The Great Outdoors**

There's almost no limit to the number of ways in which Carlsbad invites you to get out and enjoy the outdoors. We're located right on the coast of the Pacific Ocean, so, of course, our glorious beaches offer great incentives to get outside. But our appeal to outdoor enthusiasts doesn't end with the waves. If there's an activity involving water, boards, wheels, or feet, you can bet that there's a place for it in Carlsbad! Carlsbad is bordered by two spectacular lagoons, that are major way stations for birds migrating along the Pacific Flyway. Tranquility prevails providing a safe haven for wildlife and ideal for nature walks, photography and birding. Located between is another lagoon offering year-round recreational activities such as kayaking, canoeing and boardsailing. The Carlsbad Trail System offers a mix of open hills covered with native chaparral, quiet paths through a forest of stately eucalyptus, or a panoramic lagoon walk. A fitting way to end a beautiful day in Carlsbad.

#### Spa...delicious

To say that Carlsbad's La Costa Resort and Spa is the perfect choice for a family vacation is simply an understatement. The list of activities offered for little ones to grandparents is endless. While the kids learn magic tricks, mom and dad can magically improve their golf or tennis swing with a private lesson. Kids can sample good-for-you kiddie cuisine from the Sun Power Healthy Kids Menu and hang out at Camp La Costa, the resort's day camp for kids, will while attempting nature hikes, arts and crafts and much more. Even the resort's location is family friendly with LEGOLAND just around the block and the San Diego Zoo is just a short drive away. Sound like fun? That's because La Costa specializes in fun for the whole family.

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### CHAMBERLIN PUBLIC RELATIONS

### Half Moon Bay Launches Coastside Eco-Cultural Tourism Program

Half Moon Bay is one of the first communities in the United States to embrace and promote ecotourism. Farmers, fisherman and the local business community have recently come together to offer new and exciting hands-on activities to help visitors discover the area's abundance of natural, historical and cultural wonders. Explore a barnyard and dine on farm-fresh organic produce at a small working farm, fish for wild salmon and make your own goat cheese on local dairy farm, or tour Northern California's premiere native plant nursery and sit down for tea and pastries in a historic home on the property. Meet the local residents that are working together to build a balanced and sustainable tourism economy. Find information on a wide variety of accommodations, dining, recreational activities and more on the newly launched web site <a href="https://www.visithalfmoonbay.org">www.visithalfmoonbay.org</a>.

### <u>Suite As Sugar & Spice...That's What Kids Are Made Of</u> <u>Personality Hotels Opens Kids' Suites</u>

Personality Hotels is opening two kids' suites on June 16 – one at the hip and trendy Hotel Diva and one at the historical Hotel Union Square. Kids will feel like true divas and devos when they stay in the Little Divas Suite, which celebrates famous child actors, actresses and characters. Outfitted in the bright pop art colors turquoise, lime green, orange and fuchsia, the Diva Kids' Suite will be stylized for even the savviest pint-sized traveler. The Ring in the Kids Suite at Hotel Union Square celebrates the history of this art deco-styled property, which opened in 1913 for the 1915 San Francisco Pan Pacific Exhibition. Stylized in mustards, orange and reds, the kids' suite will feature a large mural chronicling the history of San Francisco's famous cable cars (located just below), a trundle bed, a computer filled with history-related games, a writing desk, a large colorful rug, and an oversized grease board that allows kids to create a little history of their own.

### **Hotel Union Square Opens First-Ever Dashiell Hammett Suite**

Hotel Union Square, San Francisco's original boutique hotel, just opened a special suite dedicated to famous scribe Dashiell Hammett best known for his novel "The Maltese Falcon" (1930). San Francisco-based artist and interior designer Lisa Compagno meticulously created the Dashiell Hammett Suite, treating guests to a history lesson in the life of the famed scribe. From the two stainless steel eyes hanging in the entrance (a reference to Hammett's short story "The Girl with the Silver Eyes") to the hand towels adorned with Hammett's image in the bathroom, no detail has been overlooked in this large corner suite. Special touches include: an antique suitcase filled with Hammett books; an old fashioned typewriter; a collage dedicated to Hammett books and movies; black and white photos of Hammett's wife and daughters; a vintage-style radio; and a mural of the shadow of "The Thin Man."

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### **CITYPASS**

### **CityPass Opens Tenth Year with Tenth City**

Atlanta is on deck to be the tenth city to offer CityPass, the nationally recognized pay-one-price attraction program. As the first city in the Southeast for CityPass, Atlanta's program will include the new, must-see Georgia Aquarium, the largest in the world, the High Museum of Art and its new Louvre Atlanta, an unprecedented three year partnership with the Paris museum, the Atlanta History Center, Inside CNN Atlanta, World of Coca-Cola and more. Scheduled launch is mid-September. Rates will be available in July.

### San Francisco CityPass Includes Unexpected Pleasures

The original CityPass program includes the best in nine cities, but in San Francisco, it's the unexpected extras that make the trip. Admission at the de Young Museum in Golden Gate Park includes the new nine story viewing tower to give Golden Gate Park-goers a view never seen before, and admission to the Legion of Honor free is free on the same day. New for CityPass—the Aquarium of the Bay at Pier 39 with its 300-foot walk through tunnel. Boudin Bakery's new restaurant and museum at Pier 41 is delicious entertainment. CityPass includes entrance to the upstairs museum to watch bakers at work and learn how the original sourdough germ survived has survived. The Muni ticket allows unlimited rides to all CityPass attractions plus the free spots all over town. \$49 adults (a \$104.45 value), \$39 for youth 5-17 (a \$77 value).

### Southern California CityPass Now Includes Universal Studios Hollywood

The popular CityPass in Southern California now includes the best theme parks in Hollywood, Anaheim and San Diego. The enhanced program includes a Disneyland Resort 3-day Park Hopper Bonus ticket, entitling guests to admittance to both Disneyland park and Disney's California Adventure park over a three-day period, and admission for early entry into a designated theme park for one day, one day at Universal Studios Hollywood, and in San Diego, one day at SeaWorld and the option of a day at the San Diego Zoo or its Wild Animal Park. This CityPass is valid for 14 days to have time to motor down the highway and stop at the beach. \$199 adults (a \$313.00 value), \$159 for youth 3-9 (a \$250 value).

Susan Wilson, Vice President, Communications CityPass, Inc.

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### **COUNTY OF LAKE**

### **The Undiscovered Wine Country**

With world-famous wine regions like Napa, Sonoma, and Mendocino as next-door neighbors, Lake County and its wine industry are quietly making some serious noise. Long warm days and cool nights, red volcanic soils, hillsides and valleys, and the moderating influence of California's largest natural freshwater lake all have contributed to the region's growing reputation for producing ultra-premium grapes and award-winning wines that sweep competitions. In just the past two years in Lake County, several new tasting rooms have opened, two new AVAs have been approved, and well-known winemakers from other winegrowing regions have been investing in hundreds of acres for vineyard and winery development. Of interest:

Ceago Del Lago: Jim Fetzer recently opened this 220-acre hacienda-style biodynamic farm and vineyard right on the lake with a 340-foot pier so tasters can come by boat.

Brassfield Estate: Jerry Brassfield's winery features award-winning wines by Kevin Robinson, as well as plans for a destination resort.

### **Amazing Opportunities for Recreation**

Lake County is home to Clear Lake, the largest natural freshwater lake in California, which translates into fantastic opportunities to get wet – from extreme adventures like wakeboarding, waterskiing, and wakesurfing to kayaking, sailing, and fishing (Clear Lake is referred to, by those in the know, as the "Bass Capital of the West") – all of this on a lake where it's ultra-common not to see another boat for miles. Nine free public boat launches make getting wet super-easy. Most lakefront resorts have or can arrange for boat rentals, be it a kayak or speedboat. Of interest:

BoardStock XI: In 2005, this annual lifestyle festival of extreme sports and music descended on Konocti Harbor Resort and Spa, bringing with it 33,000 onlookers over four days. This year's event is planned for August 17-20, 2006.

Birding: Large populations of great blue herons, osprey, grebes, eagles, ducks, and pelicans make birding (America's No. 1 sport) easy, even for the novice. The annual Heron Festival in April is a "don't-miss" opportunity for birders of all ages to grab the binoculars and head out on a pontoon boat tour for an upclose birding experience.

#### Cleanest Air in California? You Bet!

Lake County has the cleanest air basin in the state, 16 years in a row (according to the California Air Resources Board), which means clear, sunny skies and star-filled nights, all just a two-hour drive from key urban areas including the San Francisco Bay Area and Sacramento Valley. Walking, biking, and hiking are all a joy in air this clean, and the night sky is a beautiful backdrop for taking in a summertime movie at the drive-ins in Lakeport. Of interest:

Clear Lake State Park: Lakefront campsites and easy to moderate hiking trails that reveal spectacular lake and valley vistas let visitors breathe deeply.

Fourth of July Fireworks Displays: Clear skies and over-water fireworks around the lake, combined with small-town parades and picnics in the park, make for an unforgettable Independence Day celebration.

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### DELAWARE NORTH COMPANIES PARKS & RESORTS

### **Yosemite National Park**

Press Trip opportunity for food/wine/lifestyle writers! The annual Yosemite Vintners' and Chefs' Holidays held at the world-famous Ahwahnee hotel (November – February) features renowned vintners and guest chefs for entertaining culinary demos, receptions and gourmet dinners. Custom press trip opportunities are available to attend the 2006/2007 session of your choice. <a href="https://www.yosemitepark.com">www.yosemitepark.com</a>

### Sequoia High Sierra Camp

Announcing a brand-new luxury backcountry retreat to debut July 3! Located in a secluded forest setting within Sequoia National Monument, the Sequoia High Sierra Camp will consist of 36 luxury canvas bungalows that combine the best aspects of a wilderness camping adventure with upscale amenities, including: down feather pillows, plush-top king size mattresses, triple sheeted linens, and gourmet California cuisine using fresh, seasonal ingredients. Majestic views of the Kings River Canyon and Monarch Divide are featured from every cabin – and superior fly fishing abounds in numerous nearby creeks. Contact Catherine Boire to experience the new luxury wilderness camp for yourself! <a href="https://www.sequoiahighsierracamp.com">www.sequoiahighsierracamp.com</a>

### **Asilomar Conference Grounds**

Celebrating 50 years as a California State Park in July 2006! Originally designed as the Western Regional Conference Center for the YWCA, Asilomar Conference Grounds became part of the California State Parks system on July 1, 1956. Located in Pacific Grove, on the tip of the Monterey Peninsula, Asilomar features 312 guest rooms and 40 meeting rooms on 107 acres of protected forest and white sand beaches. Asilomar offers groups and individuals a location, affordability, and value that are unmatched on the Monterey Peninsula. <a href="https://www.visitasilomar.com">www.visitasilomar.com</a>

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### DISNEYLAND RESORT

## <u>Captain Jack Sparrow to Join the Audio-Animatronics Crew of Disneyland Resort's Pirates of the Caribbean Attraction</u>

First the theme park attraction inspired the movie – now the movie is inspiring the attraction. Pirates of the Caribbean, the classic Disney theme park adventure brought to the big screen in "Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl," is adding new characters and features from the blockbuster entertainment franchise and debuting when the next adventure begins in "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest." The attraction will feature the addition of two of Hollywood's most infamous buccaneers, Captain Jack Sparrow and his nemesis Barbossa. Joining the wildest crew that ever sacked the Spanish Main, Captain Jack and Barbossa add an exciting new twist to the attraction's original storyline as they race to be the first to claim a cache of plundered treasure. The attraction closed in March to complete the updates in time for the opening of "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest" on July 7. The attraction will re-open at Disneyland park on June 26. For more information, log onto www.disneylandnews.com.

### New Holiday Celebrations and Annual Holiday Traditions at the Disneyland Resort

Beginning September 29 through October 31, 2006, the Disneyland Resort in Southern California presents Disney's Halloween Time – a new event in celebration of the annual Halloween holiday. Disney's Halloween Time is an immersive, family-friendly Halloween experience. The Resort will be in full holiday mode with ghoulish décor, favorite Disney characters dressed in their Halloween costumes, themed atmosphere entertainment and amazing shows and attractions. The holiday traditions continue from November 10, 2006 through January 3, 2007, as Disneyland Resort kicks off its annual holiday celebration with holiday décor, spectacular parades, "it's a small world" holiday and snow! Extended park hours for Disneyland and Disney's California Adventure will be in effect for much of the season, and Downtown Disney District and the Disneyland Resort hotels will join in the fun with twinkling lights and ornaments, special entertainment and holiday dining. For more information, please log on to <a href="https://www.disneylandnews.com">www.disneylandnews.com</a>.

### All New "Finding Nemo Submarine Voyage" to Surface in Tomorrowland in 2007

The next "E-Ticket" attraction is coming soon to the Disneyland Resort. "Finding Nemo Submarine Voyage" is an all-new underwater adventure that will feature the eight submarines of the fondly remembered "Submarine Voyage" attraction. "Finding Nemo Submarine Voyage" is inspired by the Disney presentation of the Pixar Animation Studios film, "Finding Nemo." As a member of the sub crew, guests will embark on an expedition to observe an active undersea volcano. But soon after departure, they will be delighted to discover their favorite fish friends getting into the swim of things right alongside their submarine! Nemo and his friends are able to go along for the ride thanks to an amazing new projection technology developed exclusively by Walt Disney Imagineering that allows them to appear exactly as they do in the film "Finding Nemo" but now in a three-dimensional underwater setting. For more information, visit www.disneylandnews.com.

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### THE FONTAYNE GROUP

### **Dolphin Bay Hotel & Residences**

Dolphin Bay Hotel & Residences in Pismo Beach is the Central Coast's new luxury oceanfront property. Offering not rooms, but residences, Dolphin Bay provides its guests with a vacation home environment enhanced by traditional hotel services. A member of the prestigious Small Luxury Hotels of the World, Dolphin Bay's amenities include concierge services, lavishly-equipped kitchens, in-suite laundry facilities, flat panel TVs and DVD systems with surround sound, complimentary DVD library, European linens, room service and countless small touches that combine to create a memorable stay, from family vacation to romantic getaway. The Lido Restaurant and Bar features Coastal Wine Country cuisine, serious food served with style and warmth. La Bonne Vie spa nurtures both beauty and fitness with facial and body treatments, yoga and Pilates. <a href="www.thedolphinbay.com">www.thedolphinbay.com</a>. Media contact: <a href="mailto:dolphinbay@fontayne.com">dolphinbay@fontayne.com</a>.

### **Seven Crown Resorts**

Seven Crown Resorts offers houseboat rentals, small craft rentals and other amenities, operating at Lake Shasta, Lake Mohave, Lake Mead and on the California Delta, all perfect places for a vacation afloat. Great for family vacations, reunions, group outings, retreats and unique incentives. Family dogs are welcome aboard, too. Several locations also offer land-based lodging and/or RV facilities, restaurants and provisioning stores. Look for special offers on <a href="https://www.sevencrown.com">www.sevencrown.com</a>. Media contact: <a href="mailto:sevencrown@fontayne.com">sevencrown@fontayne.com</a>.

#### Tenava Lodge at Yosemite

Tenaya Lodge at Yosemite, the only four-diamond rated resort in the High Sierra, stands along Highway 41, just two miles from the southern entrance to Yosemite National Park. The resort has its own park-like setting, with many recreational activities on property and nearby. Enrichment programs on wine, astronomy and other topics are offered throughout the year. Coming up soon: the annual Yosemite Writer's Conference. Check <a href="www.tenayalodge.com">www.tenayalodge.com</a> for news on this conference and programs for geo-caching, family adventures, child enrichment programs and fido-friendly accommodations. Media contact: <a href="tenaya@fontayne.com">tenaya@fontayne.com</a>.

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### FRESNO COUNTY OFFICE OF TOURISM

### Fresno County Fruit Trail – Juicier Than Ever!

As the number one agricultural county in the nation, Fresno County is proud to showcase its heritage, from the beauty of springtime's Fresno County Blossom Trail to the flavorful experience of the summer's Fresno County Fruit Trail. The award winning Fresno County Fruit Trail launches another summer (May–September) full of delicious fruit, hometown festivals, and old fashioned fun. The Fruit Trail allows travelers to experience this fertile agricultural region, by showcasing businesses and communities where visitors can taste farm fresh produce, enjoy unique product offerings, and experience warm hospitality. Along with the 46 Fruit Trail Member stops, the 2006 Fresno County Fruit Trail Map and Visitors Guide includes seven farmers markets, twenty two heritage and culture attractions, and twenty three hometown festivals and special events in eastern Fresno County. The Fruit Trail invites guests to experience the rich countryside, old-fashioned charm, friendly service and the finest products ever tasted!

#### Fresno County Sesquicentennial – Celebrating the Journey (1856-2006)

Fresno County is celebrating 150 years. Created in 1856, the County's history is an important part of the California story. It's the immigrant story, the story of people and their relationship with the land - it's an American story. Two events celebrating this milestone are the Fresno County Sesquicentennial Parade and the Sesquicentennial themed Fresno Fair, the largest harvest fair in California. Traditionally parades have been important celebrations and Fresno's Raisin Day Parade was one of California's best. The first Raisin Day in 1909 was used by Fresno growers to save the industry. The Parade drew crowds of more than 100,000 with floats from Los Angeles, San Francisco and Pasadena competing with local communities for the coveted sweepstakes award. In honor of this tradition, a Sesquicentennial parade is planned for September 30, 2006. In addition, the 2006 Big Fresno Fair (October 4-15) has adopted a Sesquicentennial theme. Three buildings will feature large-scale exhibits that highlight the County's rich history. The Immigrant Story will feature the history of the area's indigenous people and early settlers, while exhibits in the Agricultural Building will demonstrate the rich bounty of local crops and in the Home Arts Building will include artifacts from throughout the County that will help tell the story of the settler's home life.

#### Fresno County's High Sierra Offers Unrivaled Recreation Opportunities

Fresno County's High Sierra is home to a wide array of recreational offerings. In addition to easy access to Yosemite and Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks, this incredible mountain scenery plays host to camping, hiking, fishing, horseback riding, boating, white water rafting, rock climbing, skiing, snowmobiling and more. From canoeing on the San Joaquin to white water rafting on the Kings, and from boating on Shaver to sailing at Huntington – Fresno County is home to a wealth of lakes, rivers and fishing holes offering every type of water recreation imaginable. Kaiser Pass is one of the most beautiful portals into the Central Sierra featuring the breathtaking landscape of the Kaiser, John Muir and Ansel Adams Wilderness Areas. Enjoy a serene drive along the Sierra Heritage Scenic Byway to appreciate the panoramic view and enjoy the small communities' mountain hospitality – welcoming you to the heart of the Central Sierra!

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### HOTEL VALENCIA SANTANA ROW

### **Happy Holiday Shopping**

What do you get when you take more than 350 stores and add one hip, luxurious hotel? A very merry, one-stop holiday shopping extravaganza. Hotel Valencia, a 211-room contemporary luxury hotel, is the centerpiece of Santana Row, San Jose's stylish, pedestrian-friendly shopping and entertainment district. In addition to more than 70 retailers lining Santana Row (including Burberry, Gucci, Diesel and Ted Baker), Westfield Valley Fair Mall is adjacent to the Row with more than 280 stores (including Tiffany & Co., Abercrombie & Fitch, and Benetton). When the shopping's done, recharge at Hotel Valencia. From a foot therapy at the hotel's Ayurvedic spa, a holiday cocktail at super-sleek Vbar lounge, a surf and turf dinner at Citrus restaurant, or simply relaxing with a digital movie while lounging on the custom-made "Valencia Bed" in your guestroom, you'll be revitalized and ready to enjoy the holidays.

### Travelers Stav Healthy, Fresh & Focused

Hotel Valencia Santana Row offers healthy options to help frequent travelers stay in top shape. Ayoma LifeSpa, the hotel's Ayurvedic spa, offers individualized therapies designed to help travelers recharge and recover from exhaustion and jet lag. Ayurveda, the 5,000 year old wellness system from India, maximizes health through herbal treatments. The experience starts with a dosha analysis to identify an individual's specific body and mind type, allowing the therapist to customize the guest's treatments. Each session ends with plenty of time to relax and meditate with a soothing cup of wellness tea. The hotel's rooftop pool and hot tub also provide ample opportunity to unwind, along with a 24-hour fitness center. Revitalization continues in the guestrooms, with spa-quality, all-natural shampoos, soaps and lotions from LATHER and the custom-made "Valencia Bed" wrapped in seven layers of luxurious Egyptian cotton bed linens.

#### **Perfect Proposal**

With mountain vistas, intimate hideaways, luxurious guestrooms and a resourceful staff to help you, Hotel Valencia Santana Row is the ideal spot to pop the question. Set the stage for romance with chocolates and a chilled bottle of champagne in your room upon arrival. Wake up to shawl-collared waffle weave robes and enjoy a full breakfast in the privacy of your own room. Snuggle in the unique, circular "cocoon" room off the hotel lobby. Build the excitement with sunset drinks or a candlelight dinner at Cielo, the hotel's rooftop wine terrace, or a romantic steak dinner for two in Citrus restaurant. Let Hotel Valencia handle your specific requests with advance arrangements – we'll even leave rose petals in the shape of a heart on the bed with the ring in the center.

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### HUMBOLDT COUNTY CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

#### **Humboldt Is Becoming West Coast Paddle Sport Capital**

It's no coincidence that companies like Yakima, Wing Inflatables and Kokatat all got their start in Humboldt County on California's Redwood Coast – the area is a hotbed of paddle sport activity and ranks as one of the top paddling destinations in the world. From raging whitewater rivers to placid lagoons, and from rocky Pacific coastline to wildlife-packed Humboldt Bay, there's a huge variety of paddling experiences available, accounting for the proliferation of canoes and kayaks perched atop the cars of residents and visitors alike. Since *Paddler Magazine* gave Humboldt State University the nod as one of the "nation's best paddling colleges," the area has become a favorite of boaters in the know, and with the paddle sports enjoying record growth, many travelers are discovering that Humboldt is a boat-friendly vacation destination. Local guides, rentals, organizations and paddling events all contribute to the Redwood Coast "kayak culture."

### New Generation of Winemakers Growing on the Redwood Coast

Napa, Sonoma, Mendocino...Humboldt?? A growing number of boutique wineries on the Redwood Coast are gaining attention for their small-run, handcrafted wines. With wines ranging from big, confident cabernets and zinfandels grown in the warmer mountainous interior, to very approachable pinots and chardonnays that thrive in our cooler coastal regions, Humboldt's 30+ winemakers are constantly experimenting and exploring the potential of our many microclimates. There are still just a few commercial tasting rooms, but most Humboldt County wineries offer tours and tastings by appointment, where the visitor is likely to meet the actual winemaker in these family-run, pretension-free vineyards. For a partial list, visit <a href="http://www.redwoods.info/showrecord.asp?id=2309">http://www.redwoods.info/showrecord.asp?id=2309</a> (Humboldt also boasts a Wine Spectator Grand Award restaurant and two Award of Excellence restaurants.)

### Redwood Coast Heritage Trails Put Humboldt History on the Map

A new publication, *Redwood Coast Heritage Trails*, guides visitors to the rich variety of heritage and cultural sites in Humboldt County. Nearly 40 different stops are described in the guide, including historic sites that still reveal traces of the past, notable collections of historic and cultural artifacts, and special places where local heritage is honored and celebrated. The guide details five different self-guided tours: the Native American Heritage Trail, the Pioneer Heritage Trail, the Timber & Rail Heritage Trail, the Maritime Heritage Trail and the Architectural Heritage Trail. Each trail is good for a day of sightseeing and discovery on the scenic Redwood Coast. The guide can be requested (free of charge) directly from the Humboldt County Convention & Visitors Bureau by calling 800-346-3482 or emailing <a href="mailto:info@redwoodvisitor.org">info@redwoodvisitor.org</a>. An online version of the guide can be found at

http://www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/humboldtct/heritagetrail/index.php.

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### THE ISLAND HOTEL NEWPORT BEACH

### **The Island Hotel Makes Its Stunning Debut**

The Irvine Company assumed management of the newly renamed The Island Hotel Newport Beach, a luxury 20-story, 295-room property in the heart of the Newport Beach and Orange County business districts on November 1, 2005. Developed and owned by The Irvine Company, the hotel was previously managed by Four Seasons since opening in 1986. Seasoned hospitality executive Hansjoerg Maissen serves as general manager. Upgrades are planned for the lobby lounge area, 83 suites, and fine dining restaurant Pavilion. Guestrooms were recently remodeled and a 4,000-square-foot spa was introduced in early 2005. For more information, visit <a href="https://www.theislandhotel.com">www.theislandhotel.com</a> or call 888-321-4752.

#### The Spa at The Island Hotel Introduces New Island Rituals

The new Signature Body Rituals at The Spa at The Island Hotel Newport Beach take spa-goers on an exotic global island voyage. Guests are invited to enjoy services from a varied 'ports of call' spa menu -- an energizing Island Volcanic Detoxifying Wrap...the relaxing, soul-satisfying Island 'Boreh'Bali Spice Remedy...the invigorating effects of Island Tropical Splendor, the quintessential body elixir...the ultimate body anti-aging therapy of the Island Nourisher. Welcome aboard and welcome to The Spa at The Island Hotel. For more information and to schedule appointments, please call The Spa at 949-759-0808, or visit the Web site at www.theislandhotel.com.

## <u>Fashion Island's 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Concert Series Helps Celebrate Newport Beach Centennial</u>

Fashion Island's Annual Summer Concert Series, featuring a variety of music in a beautiful outdoor setting, will be held Wednesday evenings, from July 12 to August 16, at 7 p.m. The Concerts are complimentary, with preferred seating available for \$20. For more information or the concert line-up, call the Fashion Island Concierge 949-721-2000.

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### LAGUNA BEACH VISITORS AND CONFERENCE BUREAU

### Weddings, Honeymoons and Getaways

Known for its miles of clean sandy beaches, working artists and annual festivals, Laguna Beach is the perfect California destination for weddings, honeymoons and getaways. Located mid-way between Los Angeles and San Diego, the city of Laguna Beach is a seaside village of 24,000-plus residents that is one of the most popular spots in California for both weddings and honeymoons. Seeking a unique getaway? The city includes hundreds of local working artists and unique gift shops. It is home for people who seek the tranquility of beach accommodations as well as endless cultural opportunities. These include dozens of art and music events throughout the year, as well as an art museum and a live stage theater. More than two dozen hotels, B & Bs, seaside villas and full-service resorts dot the coastline throughout the city. There are accommodations for every taste and style.

### **Interactive Arts Experience**

Laguna Beach has become synonymous with performing and visual arts. Did you know there are many seasonal programs for visitors to experience an interactive arts program? Have you ever wanted to take a docent led tour of the tide pools, try your hand at silk painting on scarves or stone carving? There are also workshops on pottery making and screen printing as well as demonstrations on glass blowing and many others forms of art during the annual summer festivals. There are also "Art of Cooking" classes at the Laguna Culinary Arts School as well as the "Art of Wine Tasting" experience at the Laguna Canyon Winery. If festivals are more your speed, then make sure to plan to attend one of the popular seasonal festivals. Two of the top five art festivals in the United States are held in Laguna Beach including the Sawdust Art Festival and the Pageant of the Masters. Laguna Beach festivals also include the Festival of Arts and Art-A-Fair. These annual events together attract visitors from around the world who experience original artwork in many different forms.

### **Just What Women Want**

Laguna Beach is the perfect spot for a girlfriends' getaway. Stay at one of our luxurious resorts or one of the many bungalows and cottages in town. Choose from a menu of fun things to do like yoga classes, art classes, a spa experience, wine tasting, cooking classes and flower arranging. Shopping is also part of a great schedule and Laguna Beach features a large percentage of one-of-a-kind specialty shops. If you arrive at the beginning of the month, be sure to include the First Thursdays Art Walk on your itinerary. It features a free tour of Laguna Beach-based art galleries with free trolley service throughout the city.

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### LA INC. THE CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU

### FlyAway Eases Trips between LAX and Downtown

Los Angeles World Airports, which operates the successful Van Nuys FlyAway scheduled motorcoach service between the mid-San Fernando Valley and Los Angeles International Airport, recently launched similar service between Downtown LA's Union Station and LAX. The Union Station FlyAway operates every half hour from 5 a.m. to 1 a.m. and every hour from 1 a.m. to 5 a.m. The 20-mile ride costs \$3 one way for adults, \$2 for children between 2 and 12 years, and free for children under 2 years. The Union Station FlyAway features comfortable motorcoaches with luggage storage and porter service. The coaches travel in carpool lanes. Visitors arriving at LAX and riding the FlyAway to Union Station can then take a DASH shuttle into Downtown LA, the Metro Red Line subway into Downtown, Hollywood or the east San Fernando Valley, or the Metro Gold Line light rail to Pasadena.

### The Getty Villa Now Open in Malibu

The J. Paul Getty Museum in Malibu, closed since 1997, recently reopened after extensive renovations as the Getty Villa. It houses Greek, Roman and Etruscan antiquities and has become a center for the study of classical antiquities, archaeology and comparative ancient cultures. The décor remains classical in inspiration, with patterned mosaic and terrazzo floors, coffered ceilings, colorful plaster walls and wood and bronze details. The Getty Center in Brentwood, which opened in 1997, remains open. www.getty.edu/museum/villa.html.

### **Griffith Observatory to Reopen in Fall**

The long-awaited reopening of the landmark Griffith Observatory is set for fall 2006. The 70-year-old art deco building has been undergoing a restoration and expansion totaling more than \$90 million. The 35,000-square-foot addition, most of which is underground, will feature five new exhibition halls, the 200-seat Leonard Nimoy Event Horizon Theater and an education center. In addition, the newly named Samuel Oschin Planetarium is being upgraded with state-of-the-art digital projection technology and a new Zeiss Mark IX planetarium projector.

Carol Martinez, Associate Vice President, Media Relations

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### LAKE ARROWHEAD RESORT AND SPA

### Lake Arrowhead Resort and Spa Is Undergoing a Renovation

Lake Arrowhead Resort and Spa, the largest hotel in the Southern California mountain community, is currently undergoing a \$12 million redesign and renovation, scheduled to debut in early October. The property's dramatic transformation will include redesigned guestrooms, meeting and public spaces, a re-imagined restaurant and bar and a new spa. The spa will feature 10 treatment rooms and one VIP couple's suite with private entrance as well as a variety of fitness classes. Featuring 173 rooms and suites, this lakefront property offers guests private beach access to one of the most exclusive lakes in Southern California.

### New Restaurant at Lake Arrowhead Resort and Spa

The new restaurant at Lake Arrowhead Resort and Spa, BIN189, is slated to open in June under the direction of Chef Randal St. Clair. The menu at BIN189 will offer the best of "modern California" cuisine, significantly influenced by the Mediterranean region and complemented by an extensive wine list. Restaurant offerings will include monthly wine dinners, alternately featuring either a notable winery or specific wine region. Weather permitting, the restaurant accommodates 63 diners on the outdoor terrace overlooking Lake Arrowhead. The private dining room, Magnum, seats up to 24. BIN189 will also offer cooking classes for guests highlighting restaurant specialties.

### What's New in Lake Arrowhead

The town of Lake Arrowhead is an ideal venue for outdoor summer concerts, and Lake Arrowhead Village's Center Stage Summer Concert Series features 40 *free* concerts from May through September 1 every year. Highlights of this year's series include Starship, featuring Mickey Thomas. More music can be found in the neighborhood at the Blue Jay Jazz Festival, with five weeks of concerts beginning July 6<sup>th</sup> with headliner Big Bad Voodoo Daddy. Additionally, the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Festival at Snow Valley begins its Saturday series August 5<sup>th</sup>, showcasing Little River Band and more. Additional details can be found at www.lakearrowheadvillage.com, www.ArrowheadArts.org and www.snowvalleyfestival.com.

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### LARAMORE COMMUNICATIONS

### Personalized and Contemporary - The New Art of Inn Keeping

Concierge services, WiFi, artful decorated rooms, luxury amenities and innovative packages are some of what inn savvy guests in the Sonoma County have come to expect. The innkeepers themselves have evolved as well to include winemakers, wine experts, ex-executives and former hotel hospitality graduates. Russian River Inns, Wine Country Inns and LGBT Tourism Guild inn associations have strict excellence requirements for membership that assure visitors of a topnotch inn experience. Visitors can also check availability and make reservations at many small inns in a geographic location with one Web site visit.

#### An Affordable, Family-Friendly Wine Country

Inns with budget rooms, resorts with rooms for \$100, family discounts at restaurants, and family packages are all available in Sonoma County. With a rich terrain, open to the public farms and many recreational options, wine tasting is only a small part of what the area has to offer. Many of the accommodations have childcare options available for days when parents want to get away and enjoy some adults-only time. If a pet dog is part of the family unit, the many dog friendly accommodations will make this member of the family welcome as well.

### **Solo Travel**

Sonoma County is the perfect place to travel solo with attractions, restaurants, wineries, and attractions accommodating and welcoming to the solo traveler both female and male. Wine education, cooking classes and recreational activities are all available for the single traveler to meet new people or be comfortable on their own. The Camellia Inn in Healdsburg offers a guide to solo travel in the area at their Web site www.camelliainn.com.

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### LEGOLAND CALIFORNIA

### **LEGOLAND®** California Opens Pirate Shores Summer 2006

LEGOLAND® California will open a seventh block of attractions June 21, 2006. Pirate Shores marks the largest expansion since the Park opened in 1999 with four all-new water-based attractions. The cornerstone of the new area is the water-play ride Splash Battle. Splash Battle features pirate ships that give children and their families the chance to cruise through pirate-infested waters equipped with their very own water cannons. Accompanying this attraction will be Treasure Falls, a traditional mini-flume log ride, and two new water-play areas, Swabbies Deck and Soak-N-Sail. This summer "LEGOLAND California wants you... to be a pirate!"

### Shipwrecked Summer Entertainment at LEGOLAND® California

Summer at LEGOLAND® California offers a swashbuckling-good time with three new entertainment shows in time for the opening of Pirate Shores! The Pirate Shores Stage offers young swabbies the opportunity to come aboard and join a crew of scurvy pirates. The SS ½ Mast sets sail around the Park each day, docking in various ports of call bringing comedy and swagger to the far-reaching corners of LEGOLAND. Captain Cove Stage features an amazing performance with booming cannons, daring sword fights and treacherous battles. For the first time, LEGOLAND features a live animal experience with parrots performing high-flying tricks.

### **LEGOLAND®** California Delivers a Delicious Feast

LEGOLAND<sup>®</sup> California aims to satisfy appetites this summer with two new dining adventures. The all-you-care-to-eat Pirates' Feast is served July 1 – August 19 and offers slow-roasted meats, smoked turkey legs, roasted potatoes, fresh salads and desserts. The Buccaneer Breakfast at the Upper Deck<sup>TM</sup> Sports Café is served from July 1 – September 3 and features scrambled eggs, golden crispy hash browns, bacon and sausage links, cinnamon sourdough French toast, assorted bagels with herb cream cheese, fresh fruit platter, assorted yogurts and more. Both options include exclusive pirate-themed entertainment and can be purchased in advance. For prices and serving times, view <a href="https://www.legoland.com">www.legoland.com</a>.

Kelly Spicer, Public Relations Representative

#### **LEGOLAND** California

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### LONG BEACH AREA CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU

### Long Beach's World-Class Dining, Shopping and Entertainment

Long Beach's dynamic revitalization of its downtown waterfront harbor and residential boom has attracted world-class dining, shopping and entertainment. Pine Avenue, downtown's "restaurant row," offers visitors one of the best selections of dining and entertainment choices in Southern California. From casual sidewalk cafes to elegant, award-winning wine and cuisine, impressive entertainment options from flamenco and belly dancers to opera and jazz singers enthrall on Pine. The Queen Mary, Aquarium of the Pacific, and two unique museums captivate guests. Dining and shopping delight visitors along downtown waterfront areas The Pike at Rainbow Harbor and Shoreline Village, with picturesque bays and 5½ miles of beachfront.

### Only in Long Beach – SeeH the City by Segway

Discover all Long Beach has to offer with revolutionary technology – tour this picturesque city by the sea Segway style. After a 10-minute lesson you're ready to embark on this fun human transporter and glide through your adventure. Experience the modern present and historical past of Long Beach, narrated by Olympic Gold Medalist Janet Evans. Roll around the breathtaking Pike at Rainbow Harbor and Shoreline Village, weaving among unique shops and restaurants. Swing by the Aquarium of the Pacific and Queen Mary. Explore the bike path alongside 5 ½ miles of sandy beach with the glorious skyline of Long Beach as your backdrop.

### **Arts and Culture in Long Beach**

Travelers desiring arts and culture are discovering Long Beach, home to eclectic artistic and cultural venues. The Long Beach Museum of Art houses ceramics, decorative arts and contemporary paintings. The Museum of Latin American Art is the only museum in the western United States presenting artists from Mexico, Central and South America and the Spanish-speaking Caribbean. The East Village boasts historic, distinctive shops and galleries showcasing sculpture, paintings, ceramics, jewelry and designer clothing. Theater, music and dance abound in the Long Beach Playhouse, Musical Theater West and Opera Company. Pine Avenue restaurants and clubs offer entertainment from Flamenco dancers to blues music, walking distance from quality downtown accommodations.

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### MARINA DEL REY CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

### Taking to the Sea and Exploring the Great Outdoors

Set on the sparkling Los Angeles coastline, Marina del Rey is walking distance to the world-famous Venice Beach, only 4 miles from Los Angeles International Airport and a short distance from Beverly Hills, Santa Monica, and West Hollywood. The seaside community boasts the site of the largest manmade yacht harbor in North America. With nearly 5,300 yachts and more than 14 boat and water-sport charter, rental and cruise companies, couples and families tap into Greater Los Angeles' sailing culture at its best with dinner, dance, sunset, champagne and Sunday brunch harbor cruises. One of the Marina's newest attractions is the affordable WaterBus, a summer water taxi that takes travelers to six convenient Marina del Rey locations. Marina del Rey also offers a variety of water sports, including kayaking, jet skiing, windsurfing, pedal boating, rowing, and scuba diving.

#### Making a Night of It: Staying in Marina del Rey

Whether coming to visit for a few hours or spending the entire day, opt to spend the night at a choice of six Marina del Rey hotels, ranging from budget to high-end luxury properties. The recently completed \$7 million guestroom renovation at the Marriott Marina Del Rey will ready guests for real rest and relaxation. Welcoming guests upon arrival are sleek lobby furnishings, a soothing candle collage at the front desk, and the scent of a new aromatherapy system that produces ylang-ylang and lemongrass. The five-diamond, 304-room Ritz-Carlton, Marina del Rey completes a multi-million dollar renovation of its guestrooms this month. Guest interiors feature new plasma screen televisions, nautical artwork, new beds with down pillows, and handsome polished wood furniture designed in a transitional style. For those seeking affordable guestroom and lively beachside dining, look no farther than the 42-room Best Western Jamaica Bay Inn (planning to add 62 new guestrooms in January 2007) or discover quiet beachside accommodations at the 23-room Foghorn Harbor Inn. Other affordable options include the 134-room Marina International Hotel & Bungalows that boasts views of the marina and the 157-room Marina del Rey Hotel that provides view of the Main Channel and yachts. After the recent purchase of both the Marina International and Marina del Rey Hotel by the Pacifica Hotel Company, plans are presently underway to upgrade the lobby, guestroom and meeting space of each hotel.

### **Catch a Day of Sportfishing with the Girls**

Seeking a fun and different way to celebrate a girlfriends getaway? Go fishing! For novices choosing a daily public guided excursion, Marina del Rey Sportfishing is a good bet and supplies all the components for the perfect ladies adventure at sea. The fun day on the water includes poles, bait (priced at \$8) and a one-day fishing license (required for all participants over the age of 15). Marina del Rey will even clean the ladies' bounty for \$1 per fish. Half-day excursions leave twice a day and are priced at \$30 for adults, while three-quarter day fishing trips leave once a day and are priced at \$45. Sunset fishing is also offered from August through October at \$30 per person. One-day advance reservations are required. All tours depart from Dock 52 in Marina del Rey's Fisherman's Village, located on Fiji Way. Call 310-822-3625 for more information.

Susan K. Bejeckian, Public Relations Counsel

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### MONTEREY COUNTY CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

### Move over girls! It's time for equal opportunity...

What real men want is the new Monterey Adventure Getaway sporting boar hunting, racecar driving, martini mixing, off-road Land Rover adventure clinics and a stint at scaling the Pinnacles National Monument (Condors optional). Male bonding never looked so bold! Individual fam trips scheduled for summer/fall. Contact: Koleen Hamblin, KOLI Communications at 800-487-9057 or Link2koli@aol.com.

### **Hop Onto the Grapevine Express**

Visitors thirsty for a little grape escape can plan a relaxed journey on the all-new Carmel Valley Grapevine Express, a low-cost shuttle to the tasty tasting rooms in pastoral Carmel Valley. The award-winning service picks up and drops off passengers at convenient points in downtown Monterey (including Monterey Conference Center and Cannery Row), along Carmel Valley Road and in the Carmel Valley Village, home to several wine tasting rooms and restaurants. The Grapevine Express, operates each Friday, Saturday and Sunday, with hourly stops between 8:30 a.m. and 9:30 p.m. The service makes exploring the sun-drenched Carmel Valley easy and affordable – cost for an all-day, unlimited use pass is just \$4.50 per person (\$2.25 for seniors 65+ and disabled). Contact: Brigga Mosca, Monterey-Salinas Transit, 831-393-98122 or bmosca@mst.org.

### Monterey Bay Aquarium Invites Unique Exploration this summer

Under, on and behind the scenes adventures await visitors to the Monterey Bay Aquarium this summer. From scuba diving in the aquarium's Great Tide Pool, to biologist-led sailing excursions along Monterey Bay, to accompanying aquarists on their morning rounds, visitors can explore the nooks and crannies of Monterey County's most popular attraction. These and more special offerings are all part of "Oceans 2006: A Year of Exploring." Contact: Ken Peterson, 831-648-4922 or kpeterson@mbayaq.org.

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### NORTH LAKE TAHOE RESORT ASSOCIATION

### North Tahoe Continues to Evolve as Premier Mountain Destination

Lake Tahoe is set to welcome its first five-star luxury hotel, The Ritz Carlton Highlands, Lake Tahoe, located at Northstar in Truckee, California. The \$300 million project is slated to begin this summer with a projected opening date of late 2009. The 172-room hotel will also feature a world-class spa, several pools, and on-site meeting and event space. Other properties have been expanding and upgrading in recent years, stepping up to offer today's traveler a variety of options. More notable expansions include the new pedestrian Village at Northstar, Village at Squaw Valley additions, renovations at the Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe, Resort at Squaw Creek and structural improvements throughout Tahoe City.

### North Lake Tahoe's Relaxing Activities Feed the Soul

According to the Travel Industry of Association of America (TIA) 2006 leisure travel trends, more and more travelers are seeking a bit of solace from their vacations and they need look no further than North Lake Tahoe. While the area may be Mother Nature's ultimate playground, the mountain oasis is also home to new and renovated luxury spas offering Ginger Butter Enrapture and Alpenglow Body Scrub treatments, daily yoga classes (with Kripalu and meditative Vinyasa), fly-fishing, guided sunset and interpretive nature hikes and moonlight kayak trips, all catering to a sense of inner-peace.

### North Tahoe Offers Alternative Ways to Experience the Sierra Nevada

Today's travelers, according to TIA, are seeking ways to get out of the car and forego the same old sightseeing trips. It's easy to get off the beaten path in North Lake Tahoe, as a myriad of recreational companies offer horseback riding through the hills, balloon rides above the waters of Lake Tahoe, rock climbing courses for beginners to advanced, orienteering courses to find your way through the backcountry, guided hikes, paddleboat cruises, rafting and multi-day excursions (including camping, biking, rafting and more). There's also mountain biking, speedboating, jet skiing, kayaking, rafting and canoeing with rentals and instruction easily available.

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### NOVOM MARKETING

### **Luxury Resort at the Del Mar Race Track**

The famous Del Mar Racetrack opens June 19 and the nearest boutique hotel is L'Auberge Del Mar where an ocean oasis awaits you and tropical palms welcome your arrival in the beautiful coastal village of Del Mar, San Diego. Experience Four-Diamond service, luxurious accommodations, gourmet dining, spa pampering, boutique shopping, world-class golf and tennis – all just steps from the beach. L'Auberge is a treasured romantic getaway and premiere travel destination. Relax in one of the 120 luxurious guest rooms, including eight suites, offering village, garden and coastal views. For reservations, please call 866-552-3085 or visit www.laubergedelmar.com.

#### The Newest Luxury Lofts in Downtown Los Angeles

The Roosevelt <u>www.rsvlt.com</u> is currently allowing prospective downtown homebuyers to be placed on an interest list while this historically registered landmark is completely remodeled into luxury condominium lofts. Located at the *center* of downtown Los Angeles' Financial District, convenient access to the best downtown shopping, restaurants and nightlife separates The Roosevelt from other downtown residential projects. Offering one-, two- and three-bedroom floor plans ranging from 800 to 3,000 square feet, the building's 223 residential lofts are anticipated to be completed and ready to close escrow in March 2007. Prices are anticipated to range from the mid \$400,000s to over \$1,000,000.

### <u>Ferrari Campaign – Summer Sweepstakes</u>

Estancia is offering a summer sweepstakes sure to make your head spin. Log on to <a href="www.estancialajolla.com">www.estancialajolla.com</a> and enter to win three nights' accommodations in a luxury suite, three spa treatments and three days with the keys to a red Ferrari Spider Modena. Leave the summer heat behind and cruise the southern California coast in a red Ferrari. Enjoy feather top beds, world-class service, award-winning restaurants and a full service spa this summer, compliments of Estancia La Jolla Hotel & Spa. No purchase is necessary to qualify for the sweepstakes. The Ferrari package is valued at \$10,000. Other restrictions do apply.

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### OXNARD CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

### Take a trip "Sideways" in Oxnard

Those seeking wine tasting along California's central coast can now make a stop in Oxnard as the coastal town now houses the Herzog Wine Cellars, the largest Kosher winery on the West Coast. The 77,000 square-foot winery contains two private tasting rooms, visitor's center, conference room, and outdoor patio. Tierra, Sur, the onsite restaurant serves delicious Mediterranean selections. Downtown Oxnard is transforming into a thriving entertainment center with the opening of the new Centennial Plaza, located at Fifth and "B" Streets. The plaza contains a 14-screen movie theater with surrounding entertainment options including A Good Thai & Peruvian Restaurant, Capriccio's Italian Restaurant, Cold Stone Creamery, and Starbuck's Coffee. Casa Escobar, featuring a new world Mexican dining experience will be coming soon. A parking structure was recently built that sits adjacent to the site for visitors to easily find free downtown parking.

#### What's New in Oxnard

Oxnard welcomed a new resident that has a long history of life in the fast lane. The Murphy Automotive Museum, located at 2230 Statham Boulevard, moved from Ventura to Oxnard complete with its eclectic 50-car collection. Making the collection more accessible to the public, the new Oxnard 14,000 showroom is open on the weekends. The museum showcases 100+ years of automobiles consisting of a stellar array of classics, milestone and special interest vehicles including a large collection of Packard's from 1927-1958. The riverboat Scarlett Belle mixes one part Southern hospitality with one part West coast fun. Scheduled to debut in December, the Scarlett Belle is an authentic paddle-wheeler that will host Sunday brunches, coastal cruises and a variety of private party events, with seating capacity for 149 passengers. A new dive boat, the Sunfish is also coming to Channel Islands Harbor in June. The dive boat, which will be able to accommodate approximately 20 people, will be available for open parties and full and half-day charters to Anacapa and Santa Cruz Islands. Oxnard will soon be the site of the newest California Welcome Center. Oxnard competed against four other beach communities and won the bid! The Center will open in the fall and be housed in the new RiverPark complex, coming soon to Oxnard. RiverPark will contain homes (built by some of the nation's top builders), schools, shops, restaurants, recreation opportunities and a hotel, all created with an exciting, innovative design.

#### **Channel Islands Harbor**

A Channel Islands Harbor hotel is getting a new lease on life. The aging Casa Sirena Hotel will be converted into outlets for two national lodging chains. The 90-room annex section of the Casa Sirena, across the park from the main building, will be converted into a Hampton Inn. The 175-room main section, built in the 1960's, would be demolished and replaced with a three-to-four star full service hotel. The Hampton Inn is scheduled to open summer 2006. Channel Islands Harbor Marina has been approved for a major renovation that will turn the Harbor into a bustling and recreational and commercial attraction. The project is scheduled to be done in the next two years. The Harbor recently received approval to build a Boating Instruction & Safety Center, which will offer both sailing and kayaking lessons. Construction will be underway in 2007. Fisherman's Wharf in Channel Islands Harbor has also been slated to be renovated in the very near future.

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### PALM SPRINGS BUREAU OF TOURISM

### Palm Springs Air Museum

Working models of 61 of Leonardo Da Vinci's inventions will be on exhibition at the Palm Springs Air Museum beginning November 3, 2006 through February 27, 2007. The Air Museum exhibition will be the North American premier. Models will be organized around three themes - transportation, military, mechanical. Each was built according to Da Vinci's notes and 15<sup>th</sup> century materials and will be displayed with relevant drawings. The Air Museum, is a non-profit educational institution, whose mission is to exhibit, educate, and eternalize the role of the World War II.

### Wednesday Night Is Free in Palm Springs

From June through September, twenty Palm Springs hotels will offer a unique mid-week promotion. With a minimum two-night stay, guests will receive Wednesday night free. Sponsored by SHoPS (small hotels of Palm Springs), some of the finest of the City's hotels and inns are inviting travelers to see why summer is a great time to visit the desert. Each hotel is offering its own version of the summer promotion and information can be obtained at <a href="https://www.smallhotelsofpalmsprings.com">www.smallhotelsofpalmsprings.com</a>.

### **Sunny Days in the Desert**

Palm Springs is no longer just a winter getaway! The days of tumbleweeds on Palm Canyon Drive replacing the cars of tourists in the hot summer months have given way to a new breed of traveler. "Grey May" and "June Gloom" bring an influx of coastal drive-in traffic to the sunny desert days. The very heat of August is what draws the European traveler to the desert for early morning hikes and lazy afternoons by the pool.

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### POIMIROO & PARTNERS

### **Yosemite Resorts: Home Sweet Yosemite**

The Yosemite region's newest accommodations are also its most luxurious. Several former private homes and apartments have been refurbished at the confluence of the South and Middle Forks of the Merced River where, in 1849, the historic Savage's Trading Post was located. These aren't your typical rental homes. Each "Yosemite Resort Home" has distinctive features, such as: natural rock walls (built into the hillside), English walnut four-poster or canopied beds, private patios and decks with gas BBQs (some next to the Merced River), posh living rooms, kitchens and dining rooms, kid-friendly retreats, outdoor showers, in-room spas and quiet areas. Even in summer - up to the last moment - there's usually a good room at a reasonable price available at this family-operated collection of lodging properties.

#### Mono County: Wide-Open, Wide-Eyed California

There's a wide-open space in California where thousands of cattle still play and never is heard a discouraging word... except when the trout aren't biting. It's Mono County in the eastern Sierra, where you'll find stories about ghost towns, ice climbing, California's best fall color, a gourmet restaurant operated by Ansel Adams' granddaughter, millions of migratory birds at a bizarre lake, the best restaurant at a gas station in America, a luxurious spa that pleases men and women alike, massive trout bred at a private hatchery, horse trips into the eastern Sierra and to see ghost towns and wild mustangs, and two major ski resorts (Mammoth and June).

### Redding: Art and Architecture Complement the Great Outdoors

Who'd a thunk that Northern California's hottest new cultural destination would be Redding, a city of only 80,000 residents? In 2004, the capital of (what locals proudly call) "Upstate California" turned heads when it opened Santiago Calatrava's stunningly beautiful \$23.5 million Sundial Bridge. Then it carefully restored the art deco 1935 Cascade Theater into a glistening performing arts center. Last year, it opened the 220-acre McConnell Arboretum and Gardens at Turtle Bay, a glorious display of Mediterranean gardens. This year, Redding filled its City Hall with a changing art gallery and surrounded it with a Sculpture Park. Though artistry is the newest reason for visiting Redding, the area's famous tourist standbys remain: houseboating on Shasta Lake, bubbling mud pots at Lassen Volcanic National Park, ancient stalactites at Shasta Caverns, boating on Whiskeytown Lake NRA, and catching a salmon on the Sacramento River, now rated as the world's third best tail water.

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### ROARING CAMP RAILROADS

### Picnic Train at Roaring Camp – Daily June 17-August 20

Reminiscent of the Picnic Line that rolled through the Santa Cruz Mountains from 1875 through the early 1900s, Roaring Camp is offering picnic lunches to passengers riding the steam train to Bear Mountain. Passengers board with pre-ordered picnic baskets, exit the train at the summit to picnic at mountaintop tables, and ride a later train or hike back to Roaring Camp. Picnic trains are at 11:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Reservations recommended. Train Ride: \$18 adults, \$12 children (3-12 yrs.)..Picnic baskets are \$10 each. Call 831-335-4484 or visit <a href="https://www.roaringcamp.com">www.roaringcamp.com</a>.

### <u>Legend of Sleepy Hollow Comes to Life on Roaring Camp's Ghost Train – October 27 & 28</u>

Relive "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" this Halloween at Roaring Camp Railroads in Felton, California. Feel the excitement of riding through a redwood forest, haunted by ghosts and goblins. Hear the legend narrated as actors enact scenes on outdoor stages along the way. See the Headless Horseman riding a white stallion pursue Ichabod Crane as he flees down Bear Mountain. Trains depart at 6:00 p.m., 6:15 p.m., 7:15 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. each night. Tickets are \$25 per person. Call 1-888-25-EVENT or visit <a href="https://www.roaringcamp.com">www.roaringcamp.com</a>.

## <u>Santa Cruz Holiday Lights Train – November 25, December 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19</u>

Revelers get in the holiday spirit aboard Roaring Camp Railroads' Santa Cruz Holiday Lights Train. Thousands of colorful lights adorn vintage railway cars as they roll through the streets of Victorian Santa Cruz. Passengers join entertainers in traditional caroling, sip steaming hot-spiced cider, and delight in a surprise visit by Santa. Three train departures from Santa Cruz each night for an hour-long excursion. Tickets are \$16 per person. Call 831-335-4484 or visit www.roaringcamp.com.

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### RODNEY STRONG VINEYARDS

### Music, Wine, and Hospitality Blend Beautifully at Rodney Strong Vineyards

Rodney Strong Vineyards is a must-see when visiting Sonoma County's Russian River Valley. Whether you are a serious wine connoisseur, new to wine or somewhere in between, you'll enjoy our hospitality and acclaimed wines. Our visitor's center is open seven days a week from 10am to 5pm and offers tours daily, as well as a self-guided gallery tour. From June through October, the winery puts on an annual concert series on the lawn overlooking the pinot noir vineyards. Guests at Rodney Strong Vineyards' Annual Summer Concert Series are treated to some of the top acts in contemporary jazz, as well as the occasional crossover artist. This is truly a unique entertainment venue in Sonoma County that provides an intimate concert experience while picnicking on the winery's luxurious green. Rodney Strong Vineyards has managed to bring an impressive array of musicians to this series year after year: Michael McDonald, David Sanborn, Susan Tedeschi, and the Blind Boys of Alabama were among the acts featured in 2005. The 16<sup>th</sup> annual Summer Concert Series lineup will be announced in April, 2006.

#### **World-class Winery**

Rodney Strong Vineyards is dedicated to crafting world-class wines with complexity and varietal expression that capture the essence of Sonoma County. Rodney Strong Vineyards grows and produces wines exclusively from four of Sonoma County's finest appellations---Russian River Valley, Chalk Hill, Alexander Valley and Sonoma Coast. The winery's twelve unique estate vineyards represent the perfect marriage of varietal selection and *terroir*. The winery was founded in 1959 by Sonoma County wine pioneer Rodney D. Strong as the 13<sup>th</sup> bonded winery in the county. Today, the winery is privately owned by the Klein family; a fourth generation California agricultural family.

### **World-class Wines**

Winemaking team Rick Sayre and Gary Patzwald are crafting fine Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Zinfandel, Pinot Noir, and a meritage wine, Symmetry.

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### SACRAMENTO CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

### More Sacramento Gold Card Partners Means More Savings for Hotel Guests

Travelers to Sacramento now have even more ways to "discover gold" during their visit to California's capital city. The Sacramento Gold Card, an exclusive benefit to guests staying at participating Sacramento-area hotels, provides discounts to more than 25 attractions, restaurants, retailers, theaters, and sports venues throughout the region. Recently added partners include the Sacramento River Cats baseball team, the Blue Sky Day Spa, and Garbeau's Dinner Theater, joining popular favorites such as the California State Railroad Museum, Esquire IMAX Theatre, Rio City Cafe, Westfield Downtown Plaza, and Arden Fair Mall. In addition, visitors can now choose from more than 30 hotels that offer the card - 10 more choices than when the card was first introduced in 2004. To receive a Sacramento Gold Card, guests simply need to request one when checking in at a participating hotel. <a href="https://www.discovergold.org">www.discovergold.org</a>

### California's Largely Undiscovered Wine Region

Visitors are discovering a new way to strike it rich in the foothills around Sacramento – liquid gold. More than 50 wineries, nestled along scenic backroads in California's Gold Country, are just an easy day trip from the vibrant city of Sacramento. Renowned for producing California's most rich and robust Zinfandels, vintners also earn enthusiastic praise for other varietals, including Barbera, Sangiovese and Syrah with limited bottlings of Cabernet Sauvignon, Viognier, Roussanne and Mourvedre. Exceptional dessert wines made from Muscat varieties and port-style wines made from Zinfandels are also produced. Foothill wineries are small, family-owned operations known for their gracious hospitality and most offer complimentary tastings. They provide visitors with an intimate view of wine country often unavailable in the more heavily trafficked California wine regions. The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Grape Escape is expected to draw more than 60 regional wineries and 40 restaurants to Crocker Park on June 10, 2006 for Sacramento's premier food and wine event. (2007 date TBD)

### Treasures of California Pioneer Women Opens June 30, 2006

For centuries, women were discouraged from becoming traditional artists, but expressed their creativity through textiles, an art form both beautiful and useful. This summer, The California Museum will present a yearlong exhibition of exquisite quilts, dresses, christening gowns and other textiles made by California's pioneer settlers. The meticulous stitches and the fabrics used give visitors a glimpse into the long-ago lives of California women. www.californiamuseum.org

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### SAN DIEGO CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

### **Downtown San Diego**

Downtown San Diego has evolved into an exciting urban center with new hotels, shopping, nightlife and continued renewal of the historic Gaslamp Quarter. Hotel developments include the 38-room Keating Hotel designed by Pininfarina, the world-renowned Italian design firm famous for luxury brands Ferrari and Maserati, and set to open in summer 2006. The historic, 270-room US GRANT-A Luxury Collection Hotel will reopen its doors in November 2006, after a \$52 million renovation, as a member of Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide's prestigious Luxury Collection. When the cutting-edge Hard Rock Hotel San Diego opens in spring 2007, it will be San Diego's first branded condo-hotel with 420 luxury rooms and suites.

#### San Diego's Dining Scene

Boasting some of the country's most sought after produce and chef talent, San Diego offers a wealth of delectable dining experiences. The new San Diego Wine & Culinary Center showcases the region's bounty with a tasting bar featuring wines by more than a dozen area wineries and a bright, open demonstration kitchen where local chefs lead regularly scheduled food and wine classes. November 9-11, 2006, wine and food enthusiasts will gather at The San Diego Bay Wine & Food Festival, the region's largest wine and culinary extravaganza, for wine tastings and cooking classes, wine pairing dinners, reserve tastings and a day-long Grand Event along picturesque San Diego Bay.

### San Diego Theatre Productions Make it to Broadway

San Diego theatre productions make it to Broadway nearly every year - the La Jolla Playhouse production "Jersey Boys" is nominated for a 2006 Tony Award® and Balboa Park is home to the Tony Award®-winning Old Globe Theatre as well as 15 museums, making it the largest urban cultural park in the United States. In 2007, for the first time ever, The San Diego Museum of Natural History is partnering with the Israel Antiquities Authority to bring The Dead Sea Scrolls, the oldest discovered copies of biblical manuscripts, to San Diego in an exhibit that is sure to capture the imagination and inspire wonder in museum patrons.

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### SAN DIEGO ZOO AND SAN DIEGO'S WILD ANIMAL PARK

### Joan B. Kroc's Monkey Trails and Forest Tales

The Zoo unveiled the largest and most elaborate animal habitat in its 90-year history in May 2005. Monkey Trails takes guests on an excursion into Asian and African forests flourishing with some of nature's most imperiled wildlife including mandrills; the elusive clouded leopard; the extremely rare pygmy hippopotamus; highly-prized and endangered mahogany trees; venomous snakes and rare crocodilians; sociable weaver birds that build the most massive and elaborate nest complex of any bird species in the world; and several other species of rare and endangered monkeys, to name but a few of the habitats' highlights.

#### **Giant Panda Research Station**

The San Diego Zoo is one of only four facilities in the United States to house critically endangered giant pandas, and has the largest population of giant pandas in the United States. The Zoo has four pandas; the female cub, Su Lin, the adult female Bai Yun, the adult male Gao Gao and Mei Sheng, the 2-year-old male juvenile panda. The newest panda, Su Lin, born Aug 2, 2005 is now on exhibit, and Zoo goers can delight in watching her explore, learn how to climb and grow by leaps and bounds.

### <u>Unbelievable Exotic Experiences Wait at the San Diego Zoo's Wild Animal Park</u>

Witness the jaw-dropping speed of the world's fastest animals during Cheetah Run Safari. Observe the sleek cat's explosive sprint mere feet away – reaching speeds of 0 to 60 miles per hour in just 3.4 seconds – as it chases a mechanical lure. Ever hand-feed a giraffe or touch a rhino's horn? You may get that once-in-a-lifetime experience by embarking on a Photo Caravan Safari tour. Or pack an overnight bag along with your sense of adventure for an exclusive camping safari at the where guests fall asleep to the deep guttural reverberation of lions roaring and awaken to trumpet blasts from elephants.

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### SAN FRANCISCO CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

### Westfield San Francisco Centre to Include West Coast Flagship of Bloomingdale's

Opening September 28, 2006, the new 1.5 million square-foot Westfield San Francisco Centre is expected to attract more than 25 million shoppers per year. Located adjacent to Union Square and Yerba Buena Gardens, the \$420 million retail, entertainment and office destination will be home to the largest Bloomingdale's outside of New York and the second largest Nordstrom in the United States. It will house more than 170 specialty stores and boutiques, a nine-screen, state-of-the-art Cineplex, fine dining and an international gourmet marketplace called the Food Emporium. It will also be the site of a new Filipino Cultural Center.

#### Fifty Percent of New de Young Fine Art Museum Open Free to the Public

Designed by the acclaimed architectural firm Herzog & de Meuron, the new de Young Museum debuted on October 15, 2005, in Golden Gate Park. The new de Young's expansive lobby, main court, restaurant, museum store, children's sculpture and climbing garden, and a 144-foot-high observation deck offering panoramic views of the entire Bay Area — in fact half of the museum — are open to visitors free of charge. Collections include American paintings, sculptures and furniture of the 19<sup>th</sup> century as well as objects from Central and South America, Africa and Oceania.

### The Museum of the African Diaspora (MoAD) Premieres

The historic Williams Building at the corner of Third and Mission streets became home to the new Museum of the African Diaspora (MoAD) in November of 2005. Situated in a 20,000 square foot space on the ground level of the St. Regis Hotel, the museum showcases African experiences in San Francisco, as well as around the globe. Media-based and traveling exhibits are also planned, along with collaborative efforts with other African museums.

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### SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY VISITORS & CONFERENCE BUREAU

#### Wildlife Viewing Winter Escape

Gray whales on their annual migration along the coast. Thousands of elephant seals along the northern coastline of Piedras Blancas. Some 40,000 migrating Monarch Butterflies gathering at Pismo State Beach. Sandhill cranes at Carrizo Plain National Monument. Morro Bay – one of the top 10 bird watching areas in the country, with nearly 200 species of birds. Bald eagles soaring above Santa Margarita Lake or Lopez Lake, peregrine falcons nesting on Morro Rock, and brown pelicans, sea lions, harbor seals, and sea otters, too. You might even catch a glimpse of a zebra in the fields near Hearst Castle. Don't forget your binoculars!

#### **Wine Country Escape**

San Luis Obispo County is the third largest wine region in California. There are two distinct wine grape growing regions – Paso Robles and San Luis Obispo – and nearly 120 vineyards and wineries, featuring award-winning vintages and innovative wine grape growing techniques. Check out TASTE, a new state-of-the-art wine bar and tasting room in downtown San Luis Obispo, or experience one of the many events celebrating the grape – San Luis Obispo Food & Wine Festival (May 2007), featuring wine tasting straight from the barrel; 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Hospice du Rhône (May 2007) in Paso Robles, the world's largest celebration of Rhône variety wines; and 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Paso Robles Wine Festival (May 2007), the largest outdoor wine tasting in California.

#### **Number One Golf Escape**

The August 2005 issue of *Golf Digest* ranked all of America's best areas for golf and San Luis Obispo County was ranked #1 in California. San Luis Obispo County's top ranking was based on a survey of the 330 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) in the U.S. with a population of more than 50,000. The four criteria used for the rankings was access to golf, weather, value of golf, and quality of golf. Accessibility, affordable green fees, courses to fit all skill levels, and spectacular scenery combine to make San Luis Obispo County *the* year-round golf escape. Visit <a href="https://www.SLOCountyGolfTrail.com">www.SLOCountyGolfTrail.com</a> to book tee times; view a map of golf courses and a list of amenities

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# SANTA BARBARA CONFERENCE & VISITORS BUREAU AND FILM COMMISSION

#### **Film Tourism**

"Get ready for your close-up" Gloria Swanson-style (Mission Santa Barbara), take a *Walk in the Clouds* (Sunstone Winery) or round the track with *Seabiscuit* (Gainey Vineyard) – from the original film site of *Return to Mayberry* (Los Olivos) to the scream scenes of *Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>* (Zaca Lake), Lonely Planet's new "Santa Barbara Film Tour" guide taps the new trend of film tourism. The free guide is ideal for the *Accidental Tourist* who enjoys sleuthing the settings made famous in films, reliving history or sleeping where the stars slept. The original Hollywood, Santa Barbara was home to California's first major movie studio – Flying A Studios (1910). Guide and info: 800-966-1266 or <a href="www.santabarbarafilmtour.com">www.santabarbarafilmtour.com</a>.

#### **Art Spins Off Axis**

September 2006 marks the debut of the Santa Barbara arts community's latest masterpiece, "Off-Axis: A Global Exploration of Contemporary Art." Off Axis is a collaborative, multi-venue presentation of contemporary arts; featuring a month long immersion of exhibitions, public openings, artist interventions, tours, lectures, and cross over events that will be source of discovery. Engaging artists, art collectors, curators, critics, and art enthusiasts from Santa Barbara and around the world, Off Axis provides a unique opportunity to explore new ideas and critical approaches to contemporary art practices in a community wide setting. Info: Shannon Brooks, 805-966-9222 or <a href="mailto:sbrooks@santabarbaraCA.com">sbrooks@santabarbaraCA.com</a>. Website coming soon.

#### **Eco-Friendly Travel**

With gas prices at record highs, the Santa Barbara Car Free Project makes it that much more tempting for visitors to leave their cars behind. Whether its traveling to Santa Barbara on Amtrak's Pacific Surfliner or leaving cars parked in the hotel lot while enjoying the region's many attractions, the variety of savings offered by the ninety-plus businesses participating in the Car Free promotion give eco-conscious travelers incentives to lessen the impact of their travels on Mother Earth. Visit <a href="www.santabarbaracarfree.org">www.santabarbaracarfree.org</a> to request 2-for-1 Amtrak coupons, a free Santa Barbara Car Free Project brochure, download bike maps and itineraries and much more.

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#### SANTA MONICA CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU

#### **Santa Monica: The Art of Imagination**

As the up and coming cultural and artistic hub of Southern California, Santa Monica boasts 84 museums and galleries, 37 pieces of public art and an endless array of performing arts venues. Santa Monica is quickly becoming the talk and toast of the art world. Featuring luminaries such as Pulitzer Prize winning cartoonist, Paul Conrad, sculptor Dale Chihuly, and artist Carl Cheng, Santa Monica has become both the home and heart of the newest cultural movement of the last decade. Not bad for only 8.3 square miles, huh?

#### Santa Monica's Endless Summers: Winter Doesn't Always Mean Cold...

Why should summer end in September? In Santa Monica, the summers last well into the so-called winter season with temperatures peaking into the high 70s and the skies retaining their cloudless azure hue. While the general public goes back to their high paced lives in September heralding the beginning of the winter season, Santa Monica continues to plunge forward with inviting weather, beautiful beaches and energetic nightlife. When was the last time you spent Halloween or Thanksgiving walking around in shorts and flip flops?

#### Movies, Dancing and Farmers...Somehow it All Works!

Santa Monica has always been a bevy of activity especially during the summer months. This summer boasts some of the most unique events in Southern California including three world renowned Farmers Markets, The Twilight Dance Series and the amazing drive-in movies at the Santa Monica Pier. In one week, you can experience fresh, succulent fruits and vegetables, catch a classic movie while overlooking the gorgeous coastline, and dance the night away all without leaving the gorgeous 8.3 square miles that IS Santa Monica!

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#### SIERRA RAILROAD COMPANY

#### Sacramento RiverTrain

The Sacramento RiverTrain, the newest dinner train in North America, runs east from Woodland (20 miles east of Sacramento) to West Sacramento along the Sacramento River and through rich agricultural land and the Yolo Wildlife Refuge. The highlight of the 28-mile excursion is crossing an 8,000-foot wooden trestle, the longest in the West. Passengers can relax and enjoy the view from the Sacramento RiverTrain's three open-air cars and three enclosed air-conditioned cars. In addition to the train ride, trips usually include meals, entertainment and live music. Popular trips include Dinner Train, Great Train Robberies, and Sunday Champagne Brunch, and annual Christmas Trains.

#### Sierra Railroad Dinner Train

Sierra Railroad was formed in 1897 to connect the Central Valley to the Gold Country, and is known as the "Movie Train" for the many feature-length movies ("High Noon," "Back to the Future") filmed on the railroad. Regarded as one of the five best dinner trains in the West, guests are served gourmet dinners, lunches and brunches in beautifully appointed dining cars that roll through the scenic Stanislaus River Valley. Specialty trips include Spring Wildflower Train, Chocolate Decadence Brunch, Murder Mystery Theatre, Wild West, and Rail & Raft Trip (May 27 – September 3) that includes float trip down the Stanislaus River. Passengers board the train in Oakdale (90 miles east of San Francisco).

#### **Skunk Train**

The 121-year old Skunk Train is one of America's most popular train rides. The 40-mile trip cuts through the mountains, crosses 30 bridges, goes through two mountain tunnels, passes spectacular redwood forests and includes a lunch stop at Northspur. The Skunk Train boards in Fort Bragg or Willits (approximately 135 miles north of San Francisco). The Skunk nickname originated in 1925 because of the train's smelly gas engines that prompted people to say, "You can smell 'em before you can see 'em." Steam train trips with the 80-year-old Baldwin Locomotive #45 are offered throughout the year, and the inaugural Steam Engine Celebration is planned for Willits, September 22-27, 2006.

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#### SOLVANG CONFERENCE & VISITORS BUREAU

#### A Charming Getaway – There and Back on a Tank of Gas

As gas prices rise, Los Angeles residents are looking for getaways within easy reach. At an average of 130 miles and less than 2½ hours from L.A., Solvang can be a day trip or ideally, an overnight. Park the car and stroll this picturesque Danish village filled with flowers and windmills, sample authentic pastries and cuisine, take in a play at the PCPA theatre festival (this summer brings "Beauty and the Beast"), and shop at the more than 150 boutique shops. Don't forget wine tasting: there are 13 tasting rooms downtown and numerous wineries nearby.

# <u>Copenhagen at Dusk – 5 Summer Evenings of Shopping, Wine Tasting & Dining Saturdays: July 8 & 22, August 5 & 19, September 2; 6 - 8 p.m.</u>

The Danish village of Solvang closes its main street for five Saturday evenings this summer, allowing visitors to enjoy its many offerings during the cool dusk hours. Local merchants will stay open late, featuring elegant antiques and collectibles, beautifully crafted Danish imports, vibrant arts and crafts, and homemade chocolates. Sidewalk and street dining offers both traditional Danish and American cuisine. There's wine tasting, live music, carriage rides and more. Special hotel packages are available at Solvang's hotels; check the new online reservation service at www.solvangusa.com.

#### **Solvang: A Top Cycling Destination**

Discover what Lance Armstrong and other pro cyclists know – Solvang is a great cycling spot. From rolling country lanes through vineyards to strenuous mountain climbs, there's something for every level of cycling ability. Leisurely tour the wineries made famous by the film "Sideways" or push yourself on a forty-mile workout on the same route used by Armstrong and other pro riders. Painted bike lanes and a scenic bike path are perfect for families – and lead to a new Danish-inspired playground. Rent a bike locally or bring your own, several companies offer guided rides. Download four detailed itineraries at <a href="https://www.solvangusa.com">www.solvangusa.com</a>.

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#### **SOMERVILLE ASSOCIATES**

#### Redondo Beach

Redondo Beach rides on current trends in travel-related multigenerational, togetherness travel, couples, and singles. Its Seaside Lagoon is open through Labor Day and is particularly attractive to families for its circulated, chlorinated seawater surrounded by beach and recreation. Redondo has four scenic walking trails, of which two are wheelchair accessible. In fall, the city will offer sailing lessons, an appealing attraction for visitors. Tourists can visit adjoining cities by bicycling the 27-mile bike strand that runs along the ocean between Santa Monica and Torrance, and visitors can learn to surf from local instructors.

#### **Luxury Hotels along Highway 1**

Highway 1 is the route along which Mandalay Beach Resort is located in Oxnard, California, and the small, appealing Pacifica Hotels are situated. All are neatly tucked into scenic areas, many near the beach, away from the frenetic pace of cities, yet close to the major visitor attractions. Pacifica Hotels can be found in locations from Pacifica, California to San Diego. Nearly all offer packages throughout the year, and all are attractive to families, couples, multigenerational travelers, and friends who travel together.

#### Santa Catalina

Santa Catalina is a repository of protected wildlife, both land and undersea. It is an all-market destination for its outdoor ocean kayaking, scuba diving, hiking, biking, golf, and tour adventures into the interior. The Santa Catalina Island Company now offers two appealing packages, including the VIP Inland Motor Tour, and the Family Adventure Package, both of which appeal to nearly all travelers.

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#### SONOMA COUNTY TOURISM BUREAU

#### Flavors of Sonoma Country

Zinfandel, olive oil and luscious white peaches from Dry Creek Valley, crisp Gravenstein apples from Sebastopol, goat cheeses from fog-cooled Green Valley, tangy sheep milk cheeses from the rolling hills of Two Rock, tender organic chicken from Petaluma, succulent duck from Penngrove, Dungeness crab and sweet sand dabs from the fishermen of Bodega Bay, pert salad greens and herbs from the flatlands of Santa Rosa, silky pinot noir from the Russian River Valley – these are just some of the flavors of Sonoma Country, a unique harvest shaped by the farmers and winemakers who find inspiration in its fertile soil, rugged sea coast, and mild climate. Visitors will have no choice but to discover a cuisine inspired by the land itself. Flavors of Sonoma Country can be found in casual taquerias and cafes and at take-out delicatessens and farm stands, as well as in fine restaurants.

#### Sonoma Country's Great Outdoors

Sonoma Country's 1,604 square miles of rolling hills, pastoral valleys, the Russian River, Sonoma Lake, redwood forests, regional and state parks and 58 miles of coastline are the backdrop for countless outdoor adventures; canoeing, kayaking, hiking, biking, surfing, rock climbing, horseback riding, hot air ballooning and more. The Armstrong Redwoods State Reserve is home to some of the tallest and oldest trees remaining in this part of California. State beaches are popular with families wishing to picnic, build sand castles, fly kites or simply splash in the waves. Picturesque Goat Rock Beach is where the Russian River meets the sea and provides an opportunity to view harbor seals and sea lions gathering at the mouth to harvest steelhead and salmon trying to swim upstream. Lake Sonoma is perfect for outdoor water recreation. Sonoma Country offers visitors an opportunity to exercise their sense of adventure.

#### **Art Country**

There is far more to Sonoma Country than just food and wine! Visitors will discover music, theater, and visual and literary arts flourishing in Sonoma Country, home to more than 100 arts organizations. Throughout the county, local visual arts, both nationally and internationally known, are represented by more than 40 galleries on a regular basis. Over a dozen organizations offer music to please every ear, from symphony, opera, chamber and choral music to jazz, blues and accordion festivals. In addition, a myriad of performing arts, from stage to screen can be found in Sonoma Country. From fine arts and sculptures to contemporary and Charles M. Schulz' Peanuts, Sonoma Country's museums showcase something for everyone. Those who visit will relish the area's rich creative environment.

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#### TEMECULA CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

#### **Temecula – Emerging World-Class Destination**

No longer a dusty crossroads on the road from L.A to San Diego, Temecula is emerging as a world-class destination. The area is home to award-winning wineries and restaurants, European spas, championship golf, Vegas-like entertainment, premier equestrian facility, hot air ballooning, antique shopper's paradise, vestiges of the Old West, and countless festivals and special events, including the Temecula Valley Balloon & Wine Festival, Car Shows and Temecula Valley International Film & Music Festival. There is fishing, boating and camping at nearby Lake Skinner and Lake Elsinore. Just northwest of Temecula is the pristine Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve.

#### **Gas-Tank Friendly Alternatives**

Gas is expensive. Southern Californians can avoid the hassle and cost of driving elsewhere by planning their vacations and getaway's in Temecula. Located just about an hour from anywhere in Southern California, Temecula is the convenient and energy efficient alternative to faraway places such as Napa and Las Vegas. Spend a day or spend a week. Temecula has great golf, dozens of wineries, spa treatments, sunny weather and super casino entertainment.

#### Winemaking Region

In another sign that Temecula has truly arrived as a quality winemaking region, a dozen local wines received gold medals at the New World International Wine Competition held in Ontario, CA. The competition featured 2,125 international entries. Mount Palomar Winery's NV Port won several gold's. Winery president, Peter Poole, said his Port and other dessert wines produced in Temecula have fared well in wine competitions. He attributes the success to healthy competition among local wineries and cooperative educational efforts. "I've seen people who were struggling in the past doing a lot better today," he said.

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#### TRUCKEE DONNER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

#### Truckee: A First Rate Golf Destination With Historic Mountain Resort Charm

The Truckee region is quickly becoming a golf mecca offering top-notch courses and unparalleled scenery. All of the courses are known for their beauty and serenity, as well as their challenging course design. 0There are a few signature holes that particularly stand out for their breathtaking allure and/or the challenge they provoke.

Hole #12 at Coyote Moon – a big downhill par three, 200 foot drop from the tee to the green.

Hole #14 at Lahontan – great views of the Sierra.

Hole #17 at Lahontan – one of the more fantastic golf holes around for views and challenge.

Hole #17 at Old Greenwood – a tough par three.

Hole #18 at Old Greenwood – best view of Martis Valley and the clubhouse.

Hole #18 at Tahoe Donner – due east with a view of Mt. Rose.

Hole # 8 at Resort at Squaw Creek – offering unparalleled views of the infamous KT-22 ski lift at Squaw Valley, USA.

Hole # 2 at Whitehawk – overlooks Mohawk Valley, with a view of Mills Peak and Eureka Peak (the peak that appears on the California state flag).

#### **New Lodging Options In Old West Town**

Hampton Inn & Suites, the national brand of mid-priced hotels, has opened a 109-room Inn in Truckee. The hotel features comfortable guestrooms or studio suites, an outdoor pool and spa, a business center and 1,000 square feet of meeting space. Cedar House Sport Hotel, a new edgy, European-style, mountain adventure vacation hotel, has recently opened. This 42-room hotel is the product of a husband and wife team's dream to design, build and run their own hotel. Guests can enjoy mountain sport activities and guided services combined with European-style hospitality where guests mingle with the owners. Chalet View Lodge, located near Truckee in Greagle, has just completed a new meetings facility. The perfect setting for hosting executive presentations, conferences, annual banquets or corporate retreats, the lodge features a function area, professional staff and state-of-the-art amenities in an atmosphere of unparalleled comfort

#### **Truckee on Track to Greenest Small Town:**

While the Truckee Donner Public Utility District (TDPUD) actively promotes green building practices and smart home energy uses, in combination with the influence of the Sierra Green Building Association (SIGBA), who hosts an annual Green Building Tour, in addition to the "green-minded" awareness of Truckee residents in general, Truckee encourages a unique effort to promote an environmentally friendly community. Scott Terrell of the TDPUD states, "With the amount of non-residential and possibly home green building square footage per capita planned over the next few years, Truckee is destined to become the Greenest Small Town in America by 2010."

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#### UNIVERSAL STUDIOS HOLLYWOOD

# <u>Universal Studios Hollywood Offers Star-Quality Free Shuttle Service from Anaheim to The Entertainment Capital of L.A.</u>

Universal Studios Hollywood has joined with Southern California Gray Line to offer a new free round-trip luxury shuttle service from Anaheim to Universal Studios Hollywood beginning Saturday, July 1, 2006. Guests will receive celebrity-style treatment on one of Southern California Gray Line's luxury passenger buses, including a live narrated scenic tour provided by an exclusive "driver guide," offering highlights of Southern California locations and attractions including behind-the-scene movie and television information from the Entertainment Capital of L.A. Free Shuttle service will be provided to guests who purchase a full-price admission ticket to Universal Studios Hollywood through Southern California Gray Line directly, through Southern California Gray Line offers at hotel concierge, via wholesalers and online at <a href="https://www.universalstudioshollywood.com">www.coachusa.us</a>.

# <u>Universal Studios Hollywood Adds Cutting-Edge Movie-Making Special Effects From</u> <u>"The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift" and "King Kong" to Studio Tour, Casts Oscar®</u> <u>and Emmy® Winner Whoopi Goldberg in New Video Narration</u>

Hollywood's longest-running hit gets a rousing re-make. The "Studio Tour" at Universal Studios Hollywood, which has taken over 125 million visitors behind the scenes of the biggest movie hits, gets dramatic new enhancements, including new attractions showcasing "The Fast and The Furious: Tokyo Drift" and "King Kong," and lively new video narration by Oscar® and Emmy®-winning superstar Whoopi Goldberg. The new visually spectacular chase sequence inspired by the much anticipated "Fast and Furious: Tokyo Drift" is sure to become a Studio Tour blockbuster. Utilizing advanced robotics the new tram feature will thrust guests into close-up range of the pulse-pounding, rubber-burning underground world of street racing.

# <u>Universal Studios Hollywood Teams with the L.A. Dodgers to Let Fans and Families Play</u> in Their Parks

Universal Studios Hollywood and the Los Angeles Dodgers have teamed to introduce an unprecedented partnership offering baseball fans and theme park enthusiasts the opportunity to score big savings for two great warm-weather pursuits: watching the Dodgers play at L.A.'s favorite ballpark and playing with their families "in the park" at Universal Studios Hollywood. Universal Studios Hollywood guests will also have the chance to meet their favorite Dodgers players in a series of guest appearances at the theme park during the summer months.

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#### VALLEJO CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

#### Six Flags Marine World Celebrates 20 Years in Vallejo With New Attraction, Show

A new expanded kids' adventure area; all new Shouka's Splashtime Show, and new Holiday themed winter event highlight Northern California's popular family entertainment park's 2006 Season and Six Flags Marine World's 20th Anniversary Season in Vallejo. A grand, new mythical journey awaits families at Six Flags Marine World this season with the addition of Tava's Jungleland, an elaborately jungle-themed play area featuring seven family rides, a giant treehouse and live animal interaction. The Park is also debuting an all-new Shouka's Splashtime Show featuring the beautiful Orca and her Atlantic bottlenose dolphin friend Merlin. There is also an expanded operation calendar with Holiday in the Park featuring wintertime entertainment plus everyone's favorite family rides coasters, shows, and animals. Info: 707-643-6722, <a href="https://www.SixFlags.com">www.SixFlags.com</a>.

#### **Vallejo**

Vallejo is the Bay Area's #1 gateway city, from which to explore San Francisco and the Napa/Sonoma wine country. Affordable hotels offer exceptional value and convenient access to northern California's favorite attractions.

- Meet Shouka, a 4,000 lb killer whale at Six Flags Marine World, the world's first combination oceanarium, wildlife park, and theme park.
- Architecture and history abound at Mare Island Historic Park. Tour officers's quarters, base grounds, and Tiffany windows at St. Peter's Chapel.
- Enjoy Jelly Belly and Anheuser-Busch factory tours, world-class golf, outlet shopping, Napa/Sonoma wine country excursions, and direct ferry service to San Francisco. Vallejo affordable, accessible, and close to everything!

#### St. Peter's Chapel

Vallejo is home to what was the first permanent naval installation in the west - the Mare Island Naval Shipyard. Founded in 1854, Mare Island served American through the Civil War, two World Wars, and the Cold War before closing in 1996. Mare Island is home to historic St. Peter's Chapel, the oldest naval chapel in the United States. It held it's first service in 1901 and houses 22 stained glass windows all designed by Tiffany Studios. Of these, 16 windows were created by Tiffany in New York. St. Peter's Chapel represents the largest collection of Tiffany stained glass in the western United States.

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